

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 17 - 32 are now in the application. Claims 26, 30, and 31 have been amended. Claims 1 - 16 were canceled previously.

It is appreciatively noted that most of the claims are allowed or have been indicated as being allowable. The only remaining issue in this application, then, is the rejection of claims 26, 27, and 32 as being anticipated by EP 0 432 639 A2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. We respectfully traverse on the basis of the amended claims.

Claim 26 recites two method steps (to be performed with a structural circuit that is recited in the preamble). In a first step, the electrical energy store (e.g., the capacitances C2 . . . C5) is charged through the charge equalizing circuit. In a second step, the charges of the storage elements (C2 . . . C5) are equalized by the charge equalizing circuit.

The prior art reference EP '639 shows a similar base circuit with a plurality of accumulators 2 ("the energy store") and a charge equalizing circuit. The accumulators 2 are charged from a supply generator (e.g., solar panel generator, battery charger; col. 4, lines 8-11) which impresses a voltage on the lines 5 (positive) and 6 (ground). Any accumulator 2 that does not charge as well as the others is subjected to an additional charge through a transformer 27. A common primary winding 26 cooperates with the secondary windings 31. The primary winding of the transformer 27 is connected and disconnected by a switch 25. The

switch is driven by a control circuit 22 that issues a square wave signal with a duty cycle of less than 50%. During the charge equalization times, the “deficient” accumulators 2 are charged by and through the charge equalization circuit. The main charge of the accumulators, however, is injected directly from the generator through the nodes 3 (+) and 4 (-) from lines 5 and 6, respectively.

This is different in the claimed invention. Here, we charge the energy storage elements through the transformers and we equalize the charges among the storage elements through the transformers. During the charging operation – that is, the main charge and the equalization charge – the power source is disconnected from the electrical energy store. See, Fig. 1 with the open switch S4. To charge the energy store 5, we would close switch S5 and/or S6.

We have further emphasized these issues in the amended claim 26. According to the amended claim, we charge “substantially exclusively through the primary and secondary windings.” This excludes the reference EP ‘639, in which the main charge is injected directly by the generator source 5, 6 and only the equalization charges are effected through the transformer 27.

Claim 26, as amended, is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 30 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form. In light of the indicated allowability thereof, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the allowance of all of the claims is solicited.

The fee of \$210.00 is paid for adding an extra independent claim in excess of three.
Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and
1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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